

### 'New projects' for parked-up Top Gear trio

MOTORING show *Top Gear* will be rested for the "foreseeable future", the BBC says, following a crash during filming last year in which host Andrew Flintoff was

seriously injured.
Production of the show has been halted since the former England cricket captain, 45, was taken to hospital in December after he was injured in an accident at the *Top Gear* test track at Dunsfold Aerodrome in Surrey

Following the crash, the BBC announced that it would pause production on the production on the show, co-presented by Paddy McGuinness and Chris Harris, as it was felt it would be "inappropriate", adding there would be a health and safety review.

In a statement given vesterday the BBC

yesterday, the BBC added: "We remain committed to the three presenters who have been at the heart of the show's renaissance since 2019, and we're excited about new projects being developed with each of them."

### Police hunt for missing teens

A POLICE search has been launched for four teenagers who have been missing since Sunday morning. Jevon Hirst, Harvey Owen, Wilf Henderson

and Hugo Morris are thought to have been travelling in the Harlech and Porthmadog areas of Gwynedd. They were last seen

in a silver Ford Fiesta. registration HY14 GVO, which police located yesterday. North Wales Police

has appealed for any sightings to be reported.

A coastguard helicopter from Caernarfon searched the area around the Glaslyn Nature Reserve, north east of Porthmadog, at 4.30am yesterday but returned to its base. Mountain rescue teams

Mountain rescue teams said they were searching for the car used by four teenagers.

THE disclosure of personal information about Nicola Bulley's health struggles was "avoidable and unnecessary", a review of the police handling of her disappearance has found. Lancashire Police came

under fire for the way it made public details of Ms Bulley's medical situation amid a media frenzy earlier this year, with even the Prime Minister expressing concern that private information had been disclosed.

The body of Ms Bulley, 45 (right), a mum-of-two, was found in the River Wyre on February 19, about a mile from where she vanished, while out walking her dog in St Michael's on Wyre, Lancs, on January 27.

An inquest concluded her

death was accidental, that she

death was accidental, that she fell into the river on the day she disappeared, and died almost immediately in the cold water.

Ms Bulley's family said they continue to grieve her loss and do not want to comment on

the latest report.

A review, published yesterday, found that in policing terms the missing persons investigation was well handled, but that the force had lost control of the public narrative at an early stage.

Senior officers failed to brief mainstream accredited reporters because trust between police and media had broken down – leading to an information vacuum and unchecked speculation. The 143-page report, which concludes with 17

recommendations, criticises senior officers at Lancashire Police, details "insufficient focus" and errors of judgment. and questions the culture of the force, with claims chief officers "observed but did not act" and failed to show sufficient support

railed to snow sufficient support to lower ranks.

A huge level of interest coupled with wild speculation on social media put the force under intense pressure during the investigation into Ms

Bulley's disappearance.
The frenzy of speculation
saw 6,500 international
articles written about the hunt in the space of just one day, and TikTok videos with the hashtag of her name had 270 million views.





### Hamas close to truce deal with Israelis

HAMAS leader Ismail Haniyeh has said the terror group is close to reaching a truce with Israel, more than six weeks after their

weeks after their deadly assault sparked the latest war. Haniyeh (above) said in a statement that officials are "close to

officials are 'close to reaching a truce agreement'. Negotiations are ongoing on how long the truce will last and how aid will enter Gaza, but there are reports the truce could last five days.

There are also complex negotiations under way for the return of Israeli hostages held by Hamas in exchange for Polactician ways. Palestinian prisoners

Both sides are on the verge of agreeing the release of women and

children.
Hamas took around
240 hostages during
the attack on October 7
that left 1,200 people

dead.

A senior Israeli
official was quoted as
saying: "We are very
close to a deal for
the release of some
hostages in Gaza," and
that at least 50 people
will be freed.

### **Butt lift Brit** death meet

**UK GOVERNMENT officials** will meet their counterparts in Turkey after a young British woman died following a "Brazilian butt lift" at a hospital there.

Melissa Kerr, 31, was admitted to the Medicana Kadikoy Hospital in Istanbul in 2019 and died after the procedure to collect fat and inject it into her buttocks.

Norfolk's senior coroner

NOTOIK'S SENIOR COFONE
Jacqueline Lake said Ms
Kerr, of Denton, Norfolk,
was only given "limited
information regarding the
risks and mortality rate"
associated with the op.

The coroner wrote to the Department of Health and Social Care with her concerns following an

inquest in September. Maria Caulfield, minister for mental health and women's health strategy, said: "My officials will be visiting Turkey shortly."



WITH just months before a General Election. the Chancellor is expected to today deliver tax cuts in the hope of saving the Tories from wipeout at the polls.

Most senior party members have privately accepted the election is already lost, but it is hoped Jeremy Hunt can pull a rabbit from the hat in his Autumn Statement and save the Conservatives from

their worst-ever defeat.
It comes as latest polling shows PM Rishi Sunak could lose his seat in an election, which would be a first for a sitting Prime Minister.

The Autumn Statement will also see welfare reforms aimed at pushing benefits claimants

By COLIN HURST news@sundaysport.co.uk

back into the workplace.

Mr Sunak used a speech on
Monday to promise tax cuts
and pledged to "reward hard
work" in what appeared a clear
signal of intent ahead of the
Autumn Statement.

Mr Hunt will use his address

Mr Hunt will use his address Mr Hunt will use his address to MPs today to put that rhetoric into practise, with the Chancellor expected to announce a benefits shake-up that would see those with mental health or mobility problems told to search for work which is possible to do from home. from home.

rrom nome. According to *The Times*, people could see their benefits reduced by £4,680 a year from 2025 as part of a significant tightening of welfare rules.

The Department for Work and Pensions put out a consultation on the proposals in September and would be the latest bid by the Government to get hundreds of thousands of people healt into work.

to get hundreds of thousands of people back into work. The potential move comes as Tory MPs look forward to the prospect of tax giveaways, a result of improved forecasts for the public finances and a significant drop in inflation in recent months.

The exact nature of any tax cut remains the subject of

the exact nature of any tax cut remains the subject of speculation, but changes to income tax or national insurance have been considered. Mr Sunak also offered a note

of caution, warning that the UK's historically high tax burden would be reduced "in a serious, responsible way, based on fiscal rules to deliver cound menor."

"We can't do everything all

we can't do everything an at once," he warned.
The Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, offered his own warning about the state of the economy on Monday, saying it is "much too early" to say that inflation has been heaten. been beaten.

been beaten.

While Mr Sunak has met his own pledge of halving inflation in 2023, the rate of the Consumer Prices Index is still well above the Bank of England's 2% target.

The Government will spend more than £300million to "unlock" £50billion in capital from British pension funds, the Treasury has confirmed.

Shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves told Labour MPs that there is little Mr Hunt can do

there is little Mr Hunt can do to "distract" from the Tories' to "distract" from the T failures on the economy.

### 0 Leeds Liverpool

**TODAY'S WEATHER** AFTER a chilly start to Wednesday, most of the UK should enjoy a much drier and milder day. Some brighter,

sunny spells are also likely along the coast in the afternoon.

Temperatures of 11C in London and in Cardiff, 10C in Manchester, 9C in Belfast and 3C in Edinburgh. Thursday could see a

0

THREE-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK SUN SAT

drop in temperatures – especially north of the border – as the drier weather continues.

Temperatures of 8C in London, 7C in Cardiff, 6C in Manchester and in Belfast, and 2C in Edinburgh.

OUTLOOK: Chilly!

BLACK women of African descent were more likely to die of the medieval plague in London, woke academics at the Museum

of London have found.

The study is the first ever archaeological exploration showing how racism influenced a person's risk of death during what was known as the Black Death, or the Great Pestilence

The research is based on 145 bodies from three cemeteries.
The outbreak is believed to have claimed the lives of 35,000 Londoners, and bodies from East Smithfield emergency

East Smithfield emergency plague cemetery, St Mary Graces, and St Mary Spital formed the basis of the study. The likelihood of dying from the plague was highest among those who already faced significant hardship, including exposure to famines that hit England during this time. Dr Rebecca Redfern, from the Museum of London, said: "We have no primary written sources from people of colour and those

of Black African descent during the Great Pestilence of the 14th Century, so archaeological research is essential to

research is essential to understanding more about their lives and experiences.

"As with the recent COVID-19 pandemic, social and economic environment played a significant role in people's health and this is likely why we find more people of colour and those of Black African descent in plague burials."

African descent in plague burials."
The Black Death hit London from 1348 until 1350.



Fans drool all over Love *Island* star's camel toe

By SUZIE SHELDON

**TELLY babe Maya Jama** showed off her figure in a skimpy bikini on Insta as she filmed scenes for Love Island Games in Fiji.

The presenter, 29, was looking nothing short of sensational in the tiny two-piece which boasted a triangle top and low rise tie side bottoms.

Dave in marbs

Marbella, Spain - 12 hours ago

Splendid form and some lovely front botty definition there.

Stop-this-Woke-BS

Everywhere, United Kingdom - 13 hours ago

El Camel's toe is strong with this one

PeakyBlind3r

The North, United Kingdom - 7 minutes

no camels were hurt in these photos

The ITV2 star stuck her tongue out to the camera as she showed off her figure. But when the photos were reprinted on the website of the hate-filled Daily Mail, readers quickly zeroed-in on one notable feature of the snaps...

Her yawning camel toe!

feature of the snaps...

Her yawning camel toe!
Eagle-eyed Mail readers
were quick to spot how her
bikini bottoms followed the
vivid cleft of her feminine
intimacy, clearly showing
"where the axe fell".

One reader slobbered:
"Some lovely front bottom
definition there", while
another panted, "El Camel's
toe is strong in this one."

### Gape

Another posted: "Shaven."
A pal of the TV star, said
to be dating rapper Stormzy,
blasted: "This is a disgrace!
"If a female personality
can't post a picture
showing the gentle gape
of her privacy, we have
come to a pretty pass.
"And as for clearly
claiming that Maya
shaves her pubic area,
possibly slipping an
inquisitive finger into
her luscious box as she
does so, is little short of
prurient!"
Maya has spent time
Waya has spent time

Maya has spent time in Fiji filming the *Love Island* spin-off show.

Major Allwyss Wright Berkshire, United Kingdom - 12 Super hoof.

Mr Sanderso Dora\_\_\_ THE ANAL EXPLORA, Harrogate, Uni Shaven! toe alert!

### OAP, 70, dies after fall at Robbie gig

A WOMAN in her 70s has died in hospital after a fall at a Robbie Williams

rail at a Robbie Williams concert in Sydney. She fell down six rows of seats during the show last Thursday at Allianz Stadium and suffered serious head injuries.

The woman was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was placed in an induced coma. Medical authorities confirmed yesterday she had died. Angels star Williams,

Angels star Williams, 49 (above), has not yet commented on the incident, which happened on the first night of his Australian 'XXV' tour and which around 40,000 fans attended 10,000 fans attended.

The accident took place after the show had ended, as thousands of

people were filing out.

"Rather than use stairs,
the woman attempted to step over seating rows. She lost her footing and fell," said a spokesman. "This is a terribly sad

incident and our thoughts and wishes are with her family during this time."



### **Substance scare** is down to flour

A "SUSPICIOUS" white substance found

white substance found all over city pavements sparked an emergency response – but turned out to be flour scattered for a running route.

A hazardous materials support unit was among five Scottish Fire and Rescue Service appliances that rushed to the scene in the Shawlands area of Glasgow after the alarm was raised on Monday afternoon.

Several streets were

Several streets were cordoned off as specialists investigated.





### **New Argie boss** told: Falklands are still British

A SENIOR UK minister A SENIOR UK minister says it's "undeniable" the Falkland Islands are British after Argentina's newly-elected president suggested efforts should be made to "get them back".

Defence Secretary Grant Shapps tweeted: "The Falkland Islands are British. That is non-negotiable and

The Faikland Islands are British. That is non-negotiable and undeniable.

"99.8% of islanders voted to remain British and we will always defend their right to self-determination and the UK's sovereignty."

Mr Shapps appeared to be responding to comments made by Javier Milei (above), who won a resounding victory in Argentina's presidential election on Sunday.

During his campaign, Milei reportedly said Buenos Aires had "non-negotiable"

"non-negotiable"
sovereignty over the
Falklands – the
archipelago in the
South Atlantic Ocean
known as the Malvinas

shown as the Malvinas by Argentines. The islands were the subject of a conflict in 1982 after Argentine forces invaded and occupied the territory.



KETCHUP was once sold as medicine. The condiment was prescribed and sold to people suffering with indigestion back in 1834.

### Boffins clear up wine headache

BOFFINS reckon they've worked out why red wine gives you a headache.

A new study from staff at the University of California suggests the cause of red wine headaches is a flavanol known as quercetin. Quercetin is an

antioxidant, which has many health benefits but combined with alcohol it changes into a toxic compound known as acetaldehyde that can cause some drinkers a stonking headache.

stonking headache.
"When quercetin gets
into your bloodstream,
your body converts it to
a different form," wine
chemist Dr Andrew
Waterhouse, a professor
at the California University Department of Viticulture and Enology, said. "In that form, it blocks the metabolism of alcohol." The toxin acetaldehyde

can quickly accumulate in the body, causing a headache within hours.



ITV bosses are ready to spend megabucks to tempt Meghan Markle into the I'm a Celebrity jungle.

Telly chiefs are said to be in panic mode after the new series of *I'm a Celeb* pulled in two million fewer viewers than last year as it launched.

And senior producers are ready to break open a war chest to tempt the controversial Duchess.

An average of seven million people

An average of seven million people tuned in to see a cast including Nigel Farage, food critic Grace Dent, and YouTuber Nella Rose enter the jungle. That compares to the 9.1 million who watched the first episode last year, with audiences climbing to 11.5m when the series ended.

The first episode pulled in a peak

By COLIN HURST

audience of 7.8 million.

audience of 7.8 million.

It's believed that a boycott of the series organised on social media by pro-EU extremists and woke folk angry at Farage's appearance may be behind the slump.

And advertisers worried about a social media pile-on are said to be making "rumblings", too.

An insider said: "I'm a Celeb paid £1.5million to get Nigel Farage, but while he has generated a huge amount of publicity for the show, there are concerns that he is driving lefties and Remainers away.

"Meghan would be the perfect antidote, as the woke lot love her."

Our source added: "Meg has long

but she has always rebuffed the show. Now the idea is to make her an offer so enormous that there's just no way she could not turn them down.

"This is about saving the show."

The inclusion of Farage in the jungle sparked a storm of protest from bedwetting left-wingers.

Thousands took to Twitter boasting they would not watch the show.

### **Leftards**

Some virtue-signalling leftards insisted they would refuse to tune in – even though they had no plans to

watch anyway.

When Farage first entered the jungle, he met *This Morning* host Josie Gibson who made a joke about

the UK leaving the European Union. Explaining entering the reality competition, Nigel, 59, said: "It's not

going to be easy, but why not?"
Gibson, 38, replied saying: "Can't be worse than Brexit!"
Farage said it "didn't take long", before adding: "I had a feeling we'd get a bit of that."

get a bit of that."

In an introduction video, he also told viewers: "In the jungle you're going to find the real me."

Presenters Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly also made several jokes about Farage during the opening episode of the 23rd series.

They offered an apology to GB News viewers for the fact he will not be presenting his programme while he is away in Australia.

The Geordie duo said: "Sorry Keith, sorry Linda."

sorry Linda."
While Farage drove Rose and Gibson to their trials, the presenting pair also said: "Did he veer off a bit too far to the right?"







# Probe into prison staff sex parties

A PRISON is reeling from a sex scandal that accused guards and staffers of organising Jacuzzi orgy parties.
A group of 10 guards and workers at the Lantin Prison, located near the city of Liège, Belgium, have come under fire for allegedly hosting sex parties

under fire for allegedly hosting sex parties after work, and even having intercourse with each other during their shifts at the jail.

One of the staffers was even described as a "nymphomaniac" who would allegedly demand sex from co-workers at work.

The employees

co-workers at work.

The employees allegedly held orgies after work hours, most frequently in a hot tub womed by a male guard only identified as "P".

The employee described as a "nymphomaniac" was only identified as "S" and said to have demanded sex from colleagues in order to do her job.

The 10 employees are facing an official inquiry into the allegations, and prison officials are looking into the claims.



blue whale's heartbeat from more than two miles away.

### Jogging makes sex life better!

FORGET downing booze FORGET downing booze and ogling porn films – going for a run could be a major aphrodisiac for couples wanting to improve their sex life.

An evening jog, bike ride, swim, or brisk walk, can reignite a sexual spark, according to a health expert.

Exercise boosts blood flow and testosterone, which can increase

which can increase

which can increase arousal in both men and women.

The endorphins from a quick run around the block can put you in a passionate mood, while overriding the tiredness which leads couples to prioritise sleep or TV over sex.

prioritise sleep or TV over sex.
Prof Amanda Daley, of Loughborough University, whose advice was published online by the university's Centre for Lifestyle Medicine and Behaviour, said: "Feeling fresh and energised can affect people's motivation for sex."















### Son faces life after grisly trial

Pansuriya (below) killed his own dad (inset below)

By TUCKER McKENNA

A MAN has been convicted of murder after killing his own dad, hacking the body to pieces and leaving the

to pieces and leaving the bits at the roadside.

Ravi Maganbhai Pansuriya, 31, of Westminster, Maryland, was found guilty by a jury in Carroll County Circuit Court. The judge has ordered a presentence investigation, ahead of sentencing at a later date.

The court heard that on October 2, 2022, a man travelling along Medford Road outside of New Windsor found a dismembered body lying partially in the road.

The body would later be identified as that of Dr Maganbhai Pansuriya, 59, from Westminster.

The head and hands of the victim were found by sheriff's detectives

The head and hands of the victim were found by sheriff's detectives three days later on a road nearby.

Dr Pansuriya was reported missing earlier in the evening by his wife, who came home from work to find blood in various places in the in various places in the garage and house, and

signs of a struggle in the

bathroom.

Her son Ravi – whose police mugshot photo shows him cross-eyed – came home shortly afterwards, driving the family truck.

later Investigators found evidence of blood

and human tissue in the bed of the truck, as well as on various tools in the garage, including hedge trimmers, branch cutters, an axe, a pickaxe, a baseball bat and a rake.

Ravi's trousers also contained the blood and DNA of Dr Pansuriya.

DNA of Dr Pansuriya.
Ravi was caught on video at a local Walmart buying the axe that morning.
The body was found partially wrapped in linens and a rug from the family home. The items were duct taped around the body, and Ravi's fingerprint was found on the adhesive side of that duct tape.

### Whitehall hacked for sex lives data

HACKERS stole data on the sex lives of up to 10,000 people from a Government department in one of the record number of ransomware attacks to have hit Westminster in the first

half of this year. It is not known which department the data was stolen from, or why the Government was holding it, which is defined by the Information Commissioner's Office as "any data on a person's sex life which does not specifically relate to orientation or health," potentially including the use of dating apps.
The ICO said there have

been 10 ransomware attacks on central government in the first six months of this year — doubling the total number of successful attacks on Whitehall departments since records began.









### **Lacrosse Miss** had sex with teen student

A TEACHER and lacrosse coach has been charged with sexual

charged with sexual assault of a student.
Lydia Pinto, 38
(above), of Newton,
Pennsylvania, has been charged with first-degree aggravated sexual assault and two counts of second-degree sexual assault of a sexual assault of a former student which occurred in Raritan Borough, New Jersey. Police received an

anonymous email alleging an inappropriate relationship between alleging an inappropriate relationship between the teacher and a former student – now an adult – who was interviewed by cops from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Sex Crimes/ Child Abuse Unit and the Raritan Borough Police Department.

The victim reported engaging in a relationship with Pinto, saying the relationship turned sexual when the victim was aged 14-15 and continued until the victim's final year of high school.

Pinto coached the girls' lacrosse team for Bridgewater-Raritan High School.

### Fact me!

M&Ms are named after the businessmen them - Forrest Mars and Bruce Murrie.

### Sex on clock for remote workers

A NEW survey shows that a lot of people working from home are SHAGGING on the clock.

CalendarLabs polled CalendarLabs polled more than 1,000 sexually active couples about their love lives, and whether or not they had scheduled times for intimacy.

Of those who do

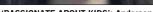
schedule time with their

schedule time with their partners, and work remotely, around 26% said they have had sex during work hours.
And 26% of those couples reported they did it while their online status was set to "away," while 19% waited for their lunch break. lunch break.

Having these intimate moments during work hours could elevate anticipation and excitement," the researchers said.

While working from home seems to make the most sense for intimacy, one in 10 of the couples said they have had sex in the office.





'PASSIONATE ABOUT KIDS': Anderson

aware of allegations regarding an inappropriate relationship between a staff member and upper school student. We immediately contacted law enforcement and continue to work cooperatively with them as they investigate the allegations," Head of School Brandy Mullennax wrote in a

School Brandy Mullennax wrote in a letter sent to parents.

Anderson was swiftly fired from her teaching position.
On her Linkedin page, she describes herself as being "very passionate about children".
A judge ordered her to wear a GPS monitor while awaiting trial.
She was also banned from having contact with the teen she allegedly sexually abused, and his family.

# Reagan Anderson, 27, is facing two counts of sexual battery with a child 17 years of age, according to an arrest warrant. "A trusted coach, teacher and friend that abused our trust and violated her oath as an educator. She has ruined our son's life," the victim's mother said during a court hearing. "He should be 100% focused on being a fun-loving, football-playing young man, but this predator has robbed him of that ability. No young quarterback or athlete is safe in our community if this woman is free." The Holly Hill Academy teacher allegedly began abusing the student, 17, in October. The first assault reportedly took place in a private residence in Holly Hill, a small town 50 miles north of Charleston, South Carolina, followed by a second in the car park of a Pizza Hut in the nearby town of Santee. Anderson also allegedly sent the teenager nude photos on Snapchat, his mum alleges. Rumours of the inappropriate relationship quickly spread at Holly Hills Academy, a private Christian preparatory school. Administrators then contacted police on November 8. "Holly Hill Academy was made Cops chase after

A WOMAN stole an ambulance and led police on a chase before being

The incident took place as emergency crews were treating a patient in an apartment building in

Washington DC. First responders were called to the scene after receiving a call for a "person down" inside the residence.

While treating the patient inside the complex patient inside the compley Francine Lula Hilton, 46, was able to steal the ambulance left outside. Hilton, of Southeast Washington, then drove around the area, waving

to bystanders as police trailed her.

She now faces several

charges, including fleeing from law enforcement.

AT WRONG BODY IN COFFIN

A FAMILY mourning the loss of a relative were further anguished when they showed up for the funeral – and saw another woman in the coffin. Georgia Robinson and her family arrived at the funeral home in Jackson, Mississippi, to bid farewell to her sister, Mary Jean Robinson. She said: "Once we got in there and signed the books, we were walking down to view her body, and I knew something was kind of off. I could tell that it wasn't her from far back."

The stranger lying in the casket was wearing

and I knew something was kind of off. I could tell that it wasn't her from far back."

The stranger lying in the casket was wearing the clothes and jewellery that the family had brought for their own deceased relative.

Georgia said of a funeral home worker: "We're telling him about the mistake, and he was very rude and uncaring. He had an attitude with my son. He told us that we were going to have to pay for everything all over again!"

James Stewart, a funeral home director, said he could neither confirm nor deny a mix-up occurred, but insisted the family told him they were "pleased" with the service.







### Chaplain set up bondage college event

A COLLEGE chaplain tried to organise a BONDAGE workshop for students, featuring a local dominatrix, to discuss how to safely engage in the kinky sexual practice

discuss how to safely engage in the kinky sexual practice.

Students at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, received the surprise invitation about the workshop hosted by Rev Beatrix Weil (above), an ordained minister and school chaplain.

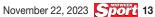
"Chaplain Beatrix will host a local dominatrix to share wisdom on how to safely, sanely and consensually learn about bondage, discipline-domination, sadism-submission and masochism," it read.

However, a college rep said in a statement: "The proposed event was cancelled as soon as it came to our attention. The event was not vetted through appropriate approval channels, so no such event is planned for our campus." our campus."

### **NOT POODLE**

SOUTH Korea aims to ban eating dog meat, and put an end to the controversy surrounding the ancient custom, amid growing awareness of animal rights.















## **'It's in my nature** o be domina in the bedroom'



**MY** wildest sexual fantasy is to go to a sex dungeon and enjoy some role

enjoy some role play as a super controlling dominatrix.

I've heard about these fetish clubs that have all the BDSM gear you could ever dream of... sex swings, bondage cages and even whipping benches.

And all sorts of essentials hung up on the wall –instantly accessible—such as handcuffs, floggers, dildos and nipple clamps.

accessible—such as handcuffs, floggers, dildos and nipple clamps.

I've never done anything like this but it's definitely in my nature to be dominant in the bedroom... I could have so much fun locked in a room with a submissive sex slave.

I'd love to dress up for the part in a tight leather catsuit with really big high heels.

My slave would call me 'Madam' and I'd order him to crawl around on the floor and lick my shoes. He'd be eager to obey my every command.

If he was bratty and disobeyed me, there would be serious consequences... 10 whips for the naughty boy!

I would enjoy humiliating him with my cruel words. I'd call him a wimp, and a sissy boy, and he'd love it.

I'm getting all hot and bothered just thinking about this right now!

This is definitely a bucket list fantasy that I have to explore some day... but for now, it will just have to be a fantasy.



SEX FANTASY





### Politician: I worked as dominatrix

A WOMAN running for a seat in the US Congress feared her

Congress feared her future in politics was over when a video of her as a DOMINATRIX appeared online.
Courtney Casgraux, 41 (above), who wants to represent Portland in Oregon, was initially horrified when a clip of her taken working at a Manhattan BDSM dungeon was posted to dungeon was posted to Reddit anonymously in August. She worked as a

Peacock

She worked as a dominatrix in her 20s and 30s.
Although Courtney never found out who posted the racy footage, she believes the poster was out to try to "shame" her.
"To shame me for something that helped create the life that I have today, where I

have today, where I have opportunity, made me really mad. Because it felt like an attack on

it felt like an attack on women, not just an attack on me," she said. She now has her sights set on winning the seat currently held by Democrat Suzanne Bonamici, and has focused her campaign on voting and abortion rights and reversing rights, and reversing the decriminalisation of drugs in Oregon.



### Senator facing jail for 'spiking'

A FRENCH senator has been preliminarily charged with slipping a fellow lawmaker ecstasy with the intent to sexually assault her.
Joel Guerriau, who

represents the Loire Atlantique region of western France, was arrested at his Paris home after he was accused of spiking the drink of Sandrine Josso, 48, who represents the same area in the National Assembly, France's lower house of Parliament. The Paris prosecutor's office said Guerriau, 66,

was under investigation for use and possession of illicit drugs and for giving someone mind-altering drugs without their consent to "commit a rape or sexual assault", which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and an £80,000 fine.





**WOMAN** described the moment she learned the bodies of her dead mum and dad were among the hundreds of families who saw their loved ones' remains sold off by the owners of a funeral home.

Harry, 86, and Lillian Peacock, 76, died within a week of one another in 2013.

Prior to his death, Harry sought out a funeral package for him and his wife – using Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors in Montrose, Colorado – to spare his family any future cost.

However the owners However the owners wany questions – like many questions – like

However, the owners of the home, Morgan Hess, 48, and her mother, Shirley Koch, 69, were operating a secret scam where they charged "body brokers" a fee in exchange for

charged body brokers a fee in exchange for corpses.

Sandy Wilson first learned the FBI were investigating whether or not her parents were victims of Hess and Koch while she was at Disneyworld in 2017.

A year later, it was confirmed, and the mother-daughter pair were discovered to have sold Harry's EYES.

It was also confirmed that her dad's heart and eyes had been sold to a plastination company. Plastination is a process in which body parts are preserved so they can be used for teaching purposes.

Meanwhile, Lillian's entire body was sold off.

Hess and Koch were arrested in 2020 with Hess sentenced to 20 years in prison and

Sandy said she had so many questions – like whose remains had her family received?

She said: "The firm who did plastination filled my dad's eyes and heart with plastic. We don't know if it went to a university or a place like that, where medical students could study

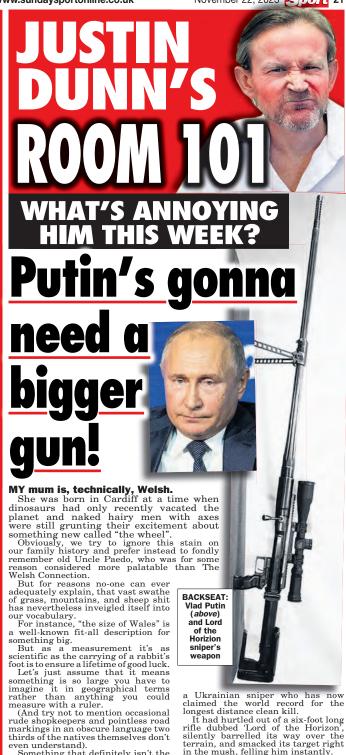
a university or a place ilike that, where medical students could study things, and we don't know what happened to the rest of his body. "We have no idea where my mum ended up. They think she was sent to another body broker place in Las Vegas. When the FBI got there to raid them, there were buckets and bins of body parts in the back parking lot." During their trial, a former employee said Hess and Koch made money selling off items including gold teeth. FBI agents found Hess forged body-donor consent forms and gave one family an urn of

one family an urn of concrete dust, instead of their loved one's ashes.









even understand).
Something that definitely isn't the size of Wales, though, is the distance of a tad over 2.3 miles – precisely 12,467 feet.

12,467 feet.

From where I'm sat right now, it's approximately the distance between my house and the third railway station along the track from my local one.

In between are two large high rise residential towers, an active train track – obviously – along with a second railway station, four or five sprawling housing estates, factories, one of the largest car and van fleet companies in the UK, and a main motorway spur.

motorway spur.

So the idea of being able to see a person 2.3 miles away is fanciful,

right? Yet somewhere out there on the battlefields of Ukraine lies the body of a Russian soldier with a massive hole in the place that used to be his face.

The unknown invader's entire skull was nearly blown clean off when a rifling bullet, travelling faster than the speed of sound, penetrated.

It was shot from 2.32 miles away by

of the Horizion sniper's weapon

a Ukrainian sniper who has now claimed the world record for the longest distance clean kill.

It had hurtled out of a six-foot long rifle dubbed 'Lord of the Horizon', silently barrelled its way over the terrain, and smacked its target right in the mush, felling him instantly.

Now, what with everything going on in the Middle East, Ukraine's ongoing war seems to have taken a backseat

Now, what with everything going on in the Middle East, Ukraine's ongoing war seems to have taken a backseat in news terms.

The BBC, of course, is concentrating instead on how awful the Israelis are and how Hamas, the terrorist organisation, is just a misunderstood bunch of otherwise decent, God-fearing, Koran-bashing serial killers.

But don't forget about our friends in Kyiv and beyond, because while Hamas will eventually get the absolute shit kicked out of them in Gaza – and not before time – the same can't be said in Ukraine.

So fair play to our Government for reminding President Zelensky that he is not alone.

And fair play to that crack sniper with the bionic 2.32 mile vision.

As for Putin?

With apologies to Chief Brody, he's going to need a bigger gun.

IN case you're wondering, Wales is actually 8,023 square miles in size – the equivalent of 14 million rugby pitches, apparently. Nope, nor me.

EMAIL ME: justin@sundaysport.co.uk FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER:

SUNDA



IT'S not been the most fun year in history – with war, energy price hikes, strikes and cost-of-living crisis all

taking their toll on us.
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sure the next 12 months will be much more fun...

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### By JAYNE FERGUSON

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they're gone.
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### November 22, 2023 **Sport** 23

### Preacher is critical after gun attack

A YOUNG preacher is fighting for his life after being shot in the head while spreading the gospel on the street. Hans Schmidt, 26 (above), a military medic and Christian dad-of-two, was shot in Glendale, Arizona.

The shooting took place as Schmidt, who had recently moved to

had recently moved to

place as Schmidt, who had recently moved to Arizona, was preaching on a street corner and promoting a nearby church service.

A spokesman for the Glendale Police Department said: "He's in a critical state."

However, Victory Chapel, where Schmidt served as outreach director, said Schmidt's family "is encouraged by what they are seeing" as he's cared for in hospital, while asking for continued prayer.

The shooting is under investigation, and authorities are

under investigation, and authorities are seeking tips to identify who was responsible for the attack. It is unclear at this

time whether Schmidt was targeted or the shooting was a random act of violence.

### Fact me!

THE Spanish national anthem has no words – the *Marcha Real* is one of only four national anthems in the official lyrics.

### Boy, 5, stabs twin to death

A FIVE-year-old boy stabbed his twin brother to death while the pair

were fighting in their family home. The brothers had been fighting at their home in Scotts Valley, near Santa Cruz in California, when one of the boys grabbed a small kitchen knife. the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office said.

The victim stabbed was rushed to hospital, where he died.

The sheriff's office called the stabbing "tragic" and said the twins had simply been fighting "as siblings sometimes do" .

No charges would be filed in connection to the killing "in light of all circumstances discovered by our investigators," police added. Under California law,

criminal intent, age and wrongfulness are factors that must be considered with a crime.





**DONALD Trump says his wife didn't believe** allegations that hookers PISSED on him in the notorious "golden shower" dossier

in the notorious "golden shower" dossier

- because he is a germaphobe.

The controversial dossier compiled in 2016
by former British spy Christopher Steele,
claimed Russian authorities had covertly
filmed naked vice girls unitating on Trump in
a Moscow hotel room.

The former president
used a campaign rally
in Fort Dodge, lowa, to
discuss the allegations,
re-enacting the saga of
telling his wife Melania
about the claims for his
supporters.

By TRACY SPENCER
news@sundaysport.co.uk
dossier claimed Russian
security services could
blackmail Trump with
allegations that he paid
prostitutes to urinate

telling his wite Melana about the claims for his supporters.
He said: "He was with four hookers. You think that was good that night? To go up and tell my wife, 'It is not true, darling. I love you very much. It's not true!"

"Actually, that one she didn't believe as she said, 'He's a germaphobe, he's not into that. He is not into golden showers, as they say... they call it... he's not'.

"I don't like that idea. I thought that would be a big problem. I was going to have a rough night. But that one, she was very good on. She said, 'You're OK on that one'."

Trump claimed that

said, 'You're OK on that one'."

Trump claimed that the allegations are a "continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time" against him.

Steele is the founder of Orbis Business Intelligence and previously ran MI6's Russia desk.

He was the author of the so-called Steele dossier, which included allegations that Trump had been "compromised" by the Russian security service, the FSB.

The dossier, leaked in 2017, also alleged that President Vladimir Putin "supported and directed" an operation to "cultivate" Trump as a presidential candidate for "at least five years".

Among other things, the "golden shower"

allegations that he paid prostitutes to urinate on a bed once slept in by Barack and Michelle

Obama.

Trump has denied the dossier's contents and there is no evidence to suggest a tape exists.

suggest a tape exists.

But Steele has since doubled down on his claims, saying the tape "probably exists" and claiming Russia may have it hidden because Trump offered the country "pretty good value" during his time in office.

Trump is a notorious germaphobe, known for repeating, "I can't get sick, I can't get sick when kicking someone out of the room with a sniffle.

Before he was elected he once wrote the

Before he was elected he once wrote the practice of shaking hands was "barbaric" as it spreads diseases.

Last month Trump attempted to launch a lawsuit against Steele in the High Court in London.

He slammed the allegations that he took

London.

He slammed the allegations that he took part in "golden showers" with Moscow hookers and paid bribes to Russian officials, branding them as "phony" and "false".

He is bringing a data protection claim against Orbis Business Intelligence and is seeking compensation for distress.

# OAP killed in washing row A PENSIONER beat a fellow nursing home resident to death in a row over using a WASHING MACHINE. William Paschall, 71, is charged with first-degree murder and aggravated battery. Police in Joliet, Illinois, received a call from Salem Village Nursing and Rehabilitation staff concerning a "battery" on the building's sixth floor. Officers later found an unresponsive 61-year-old man in the laundry room of the nursing home. Cops say Paschall got angry over the victim's use of the washing machine and hit him with a walking frame.







### Dear Ashleigh,

I'M a massive fan of the  $Midweek\ Sport-I$  buy the paper every week and really love the photos of pretty glamour girls in it. I regularly dash off to the bogs at work with the paper, to enjoy them in private.

them in private.

I mentally caress their boobs and slide my hands up their soft thighs, and all these erotic thoughts set me up for a hard day at work.

There are just so many amazing girls in your paper, I couldn't possibly pick just one out as my favourite.

But my gaffer at work told me last week that I spend too much time in the shithouse.

I think he might be on to me.

What should I do?

DA, Doncaster

IF it's a sacking offence you'd better take the paper home and do your caressing there.

### Dear Ashleigh,

I CAUGHT my wife shagging my best mate in our house. They didn't see me at first so I was very quiet and spied on their sex play for a while.

I watched as he took her knickers off and tongued and fingered her wet fanny.

She was loving it and was begging him to f\*\*k her, so he did her from behind on the couch. He was pounding away and her tits were swinging all over the place.

Then she took it up the arse, something she has never let me do!

me do!
But I found it a real turn-on watching her shagging another bloke.

another bloke.
I'm now thinking of asking her if I can watch her when she has sex with other men, and not just my mate.
I'd particularly like to see her being spit-roasted by two blokes at the same time. Do you think I should ask her to arrange it?

DF, Leeds

Ashleigh says... SHE might like to be watched having sex and give you sloppy seconds afterwards!

### Dutch courage took me for walkies to dogging spot

### Dear Ashleigh,

THERE'S a nympho called Nicky who lives in our area, who's mad for dogging and sex with strangers.

sex with strangers.
She's sex mad and most evenings can be found in a local car park with a few cocks up her chuff.
I've seen her in action myself and while I've belted a couple off the wrist watching her turn a few tricks, I've never shagged her.
But the other night, after a few pints in the local. I was in

few pints in the local, I was in a right randy mood and I knew there were a few spots on the edge of town where she

liked to get her in-car entertainment. So I had a walk around and soon enough I spotted her old white Ford Escort parked up behind the village hall and

peered in. And to my delight she was being done up the bum by a young lad. I looked on with glee as he pumped her brown hole with impressive stamina and she was moaning her head off and clearly enjoying the experience.

off and clearly enjoying the experience.
When he'd finished I climbed in the back seat and went straight to work.
To be honest, I didn't even touch the sides, but when I pulled out she gave me a brilliant blowjob.
Then I noticed several fellas grimacing in the back window with their cocks out an image which is haunting me now. Help!

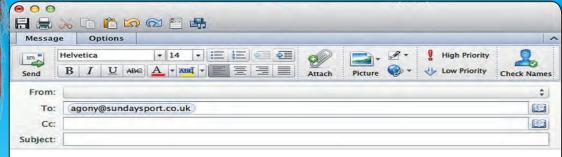
RL, Glasgow

Ashleigh says...

### Ashleigh says...

YOU'VE had your fun now – so stop moaning.

WELCOME to the World famous Sport Agony page! No other newspaper's agony aunts can offer the level of advice – or experience – than our own Agony Angels! This week ASHLEIGH GEE has been reading through your letters. And here's her advice for you...



## <u>Watching hubby romp with</u> busty blonde brings n

### Dear Ashleigh.

I'VE been married to my hubby for five years and thought that we had a great sex life.

But he dropped a bombshell a couple of weeks ago when he told me he wanted to shag another

girl while I watched them at it.
And I was more shocked when I realised how turned-on I was by the kinky idea!
So I agreed to it and we set about

So I agreed to it and we set about arranging to meet someone.

We didn't want it to be a woman we both knew, so we went online and signed up to some swingers' sites.

We soon found a lady we both liked the look of, and her profile fitted in with what we wanted, so we contacted her and arranged to meet up.

When she arrived at our house she

and arranged to meet up.
When she arrived at our house she looked even better than her online photos—she was blonde and busty with long legs, in her mid 30s.

### **Horny**

I could see my hubby fancied her straight away and that made me feel

straight away and that made me feel pretty horny, too.

We had a few drinks together and relaxed in the lounge before my hubby made the first move and asked if she'd like to pop upstairs to our bedroom and get more comfortable.

So we all trooped upstairs, giggling away and playfully groping each other on the stairs and once in the bedroom the other girl slipped her arms around my man's neck and kissed him full on the mouth.

Then she knelt in front of him and

unzipped his flies, taking his hard

cock in her mouth.

She was soon licking and sucking on his balls and slipped her hands between his arse cheeks to touch him round the bumhole, too.

Then she pushed him back onto the

bed and clambered on top, gripping him between her thighs and lowering her pussy on his cock.

He was moaning and begging her to f\*\*k him but she stayed still, teasing him for a while until he was bucking his hips.

She looked at me questioningly and I told her to f\*\*k him hard.

So she ride him fast until he was

ready to explode, before rolling onto her

back and telling him to whimself off all over her bare boobs.

It was the horniest thing I'd ever seen – her on the bed and him kneeling over her, pulling himself off before splashing his hot juice all over

And I brought myself to the most amazing climax watching them.

Now he wants me to have sex with the

woman too, but I'm not sure.

SD, Maidstone

### Ashleigh says...

YOU should only ever agree to do things you are comfortable with. Tell him you like the way things are at the moment.

### **Hungry babe** likes to nibble on my meat

### Dear Ashleigh,

MY girlfriend pretends to bite my knob while she's giving me a blowie.

Not properly, mind – she just occasionally scrapes

Solve properly, limit – sale just occasionally scrapes her teeth along my length or the tip.

She says her ex really got off on it, but it freaks me out and I haven't been able to climax in her mouth, even though her gobbling technique is first rate.

Any advice?

LD, Bury

### Ashleigh says...

TELL her you're NOT her ex, so she needs to cut it out!

### Dear Ashleigh,

I'M quite a large fella – I'm 6ft 3in tall and weigh around 15 stone – but my cock is only three and a half inches long when it's erect.

My missus says the size of it doesn't matter to her, but I feel really terrible about it.

I would really love to be able to give her more meat, and have been thinking of maybe having a penis extension operation in the New Year.

Do you know if they cost a lot of money?

DB, north London

### Ashleigh says...

IF your girlfriend is happy, why worry?

### Dear Ashleigh.

### I CAUGHT my wife with our window cleaner a couple of

weeks ago.

To my amazement, I got really aroused as he f\*\*ked

really aroused as he f\*\*ked her in a number of positions. They couldn't see me as I was peering through the lounge window, so I tossed myself off as he nailed her. The mucky fella was really pounding away and she was screaming at him to give it to her.

Later on she tugged him off until he spunked all over her face and tits.

And boy did he have a load of soapy suds to spill! This happens every week now and my sex life with the wife has improved no end. Do you think I'm some

sort of pervert?

### Ashleigh says...

NO - just a man with very

### Dear Ashleigh.

I AM a 40-year-old woman and have been married to

my fella of 50 for 10 years.
I thought we had a good sex life together until I found a massive stash of porn in the shed, where he seems to spend more and more time these days.

He's got a small TV and an old DVD player in there and he must have a hundred

or more porn films.
Is this normal for men of s age? What shall I do? SR, Oxford

### Ashleigh says...

WATCH some together!

agony@sundaysport.co.uk **Mail:** Agony, Sunday Sport, 860 Chester Road, Stretford,

Manchester M32 OQJ

www.143sextoys.co.uk





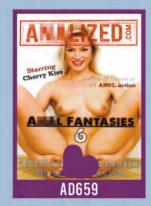








































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- ACROSS
  3. Look or gaze fixedly (5)
  9. Italian man (6)
  10. Note group (6)
  11. Breadth (5)
  12. Religious image (4)
  15. Strict, rigorous (6)
  17. Country (7)
  19. Sound of disapproval (3)
  20. Inert gas (5)
  22. Go away hastily, informally (5)
  24. Without clothes (5)
  25. Shoe fasteners (5)
  27. Mesh (3)
  29. Divide (5,2)
  32. Originates (6)
  34. Ceremony (4)
  35. Not ever (5)
  37. Spanish monetary unit (6)
  38. Exclamation of discovery (6)
  39. Make amends (5)

### **DOWN**

- 1. Savoury jelly (5)
  2. Eskimo house (5)
  3. Female adult pig (3)
  4. Petty details (6)
  5. Decomposes (4)

- 4. Petty details (6)
  5. Decomposes (4)
  6. Level of command (7)
  7. Military trainee (5)
  8. To father (5)
  13. Thin crisp biscuit (7)
  14. Of the nose (5)
  16. Dismiss from
  consideration (4,3)
  18. Star sign (5)
  21. Lowest point (5)
  23. Colour (7)
  26. Stomach organ (6)
  27. Diaper (5)
  28. Slightly drunk (5)
  30. Weary (5)
  31. Flower part (5)
  33. Chair (4)
  36. Regret (3)

- 1. WHO became the 1. WHO became the eighth celebrity to be eliminated from Strictly Come Dancing after a dance off on Sunday? a) Sue Lawley b) Angela Rippon c) Moira Stuart d) Kota Adia

- d) Kate Adie
- 2. WHICH member of the Royal family gave out agony aunt advice on *This Morning* earlier
- this week?
  a) Sophie
  b) Beatrice
  c) Eugenie
- c) Eugem d) Fergie
- 3. WHICH cricket nation won their sixth World Cup after beating hosts India
  in a tense final?
  a) South Africa
  b) Australia
  c) Pakistan

- d) Sri Lanka
- 4. WHICH veteran British 4. WHICH veteran Britisi actor who appeared in more than 100 movies, including The Hunt For Red October and Lethal Weapon 2, has died at the age of 95?

  a) Michael Caine
  b) Anthony Hopkins c) Ian McKellen
  d) Joss Ackland

- 5. WHICH nation enjoyed a staggering 14-0 victory over Gibraltar in a Euro 2024 qualifier, to net their biggest-ever victory?

# 12 16

### **SPORTDUKO**

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			9		7			
5			3			7		1
7						5		
	3	6	5					
		9	7	2	6	1		

- b) Italy c) France d) Sweden
- 6. PARENTS in which part of the UK have voted to shorten school summer holidays by a week?
  a) England
  b) Scotland

- c) Northern Ireland d) Wales
- 7. WHICH pop legend's sister is a contestant on the new series of I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!?
  a) Britney Spears b) Madonna
- c) Kylie Minogue d) Adele
- 8. ITALY reached the Euro 2024 Championships in controversial circumstances as which

- team were denied a late penalty, leading to a goalless draw between the Group C rivals?
  a) Ukraine
  b) Malta
- c) England d) North Macedonia
- 9. A WOKE Hertfordshire museum claims which cross-dressing Roman Emperor was transgender?

  a) Biggus Dickus
  b) Wokeus Pokeus
  c) Elagabalus

- d) Caesar
- 10. WHICH singer said he turned down the chance to meet Elvis because the rock 'n' roll legend had "put on weight"?

- a) Tom Jones b) Cliff Richard c) Barry Manilow d) Shakin' Stevens

**0**01Σ: T − B' Σ − D' 3 − B' 4 − D' 2 − C' 2 − D' 4 − P' 8 − V' 3 − C' 3 − B' 5. Sowl; 3. Hotel; 3. Hotel; 3. Hotel; 3. Hotel; 3. Cadet; 4. Hasal; 16. Rule out; 14. Nasal; 16. Rule out; 23. Magenra; 26. Spleen; 27. Nagle; 27. Nagle; 27. Nagle; 27. Nagle; 27. Seat; 36. Rue. OUIS: 1 – 8, 2 – 9, 3 – 8, QUIS: 1 – 8, 2 – 9, 3 – 8, 3 – DOWN: 1. Aspic; 2. Igloo; 3. Sow; 4. Trivia; 5. Rots;

### ANSWERS

956WORD 960SS: 3 states; Signor; 10. Octave; Width; 12. Ion; Severe; 17. Croatis; Tut; 20. Argon; Crosm; 24. Naked; Laces; 27. Net; Split up; 32. Arlees; Rite; 35. Never; Peeets; 38. Eureks; eta; 38. Eureka; CHOMSSON

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# Lando on track for Abu Dhabi after scare

# FORMULA ONE

LANDO Norris is expected to be fit for next weekend's season concluding race in Abu Dhabi after he was discharged from hospital following his crash in the

Las Vegas Grand Prix.
The 24-year-old British
driver was transported to
University Medical Centre - four miles east of the Las Vegas Strip - after his 180mph shunt on the

Norris lost control of his McLaren through Turn 11 before thudding backwards into the concrete wall. Norris was then a

passenger as his machine bounced off the tyre wall before skidding sideways along the track – narrowly avoiding his team-mate Oscar Piastri – and then slamming head-on

then slamming head-on into the Armco at Turn 12. Norris' car was wrecked in the high-speed smash, and the Brit appeared to be winded as he breathlessly reported he was "all good" over the radio. radio.

Norris emerged from his cockpit before making his

way to the medical car.
He was subsequently
transferred to hospital for precautionary investigations".
Norris was able to return

Norns was anie to return to the paddock in the early hours of Sunday morning, with McLaren confident he will be given the green light by the FlA's medical team for the race in Abu Dhabi.

"An unfortunate end to our Las Vegas GP weekend," said Norris in McLaren's post-race press

"I just bottomed out on

the restart, lost the rear and hit the wall. "Not the way we wanted the weekend to end. Big thanks go to the medical staff for checking me over, and to the team for the work they'll now put in on the car. One week to reset and we go again for the season finale in Abu Dhabi "

McLaren team principal Andrea Stella added: "The most important thing today is that Lando is in good condition after what looked like a scary accident in a very fast section of this circuit.

# **DRIVER STANDINGS**

1. M verstappen549	ots
2. S Perez 2	73
3. L Hamilton2	32
4. C Sainz2	00
5. F Alonso2	00
6. L Norris1	95

# UR HOTSHOT FOOTBALL NEWS



**MICHAEL O'Neill hopes** young Northern Ireland players have learned what they need to do to win at the top level following their 2-0 victory over Denmark on Monday night.

After a campaign ruined by a crippling injury list and defeats against everybody in Group H bar San Marino, few gave Northern Ireland much chance against the top-seeded Danes in their final Euro 2024 qualifier, but second-half goals from Isaac Price and Dion Charles earned a much-

Charles earned a much-needed win.

The fixture was effectively a dead rubber, Northern Ireland'shopesofprogressing having been dashed several months ago while Denmark's ticket to Germany was booked on Friday night, but for O'Neill and his players, it offered vindication for the work they have been doing.

After Dion Charles hit the post early on, they soaked up

post early on, they soaked up pressure with Conor Hazard making two fine first-half

# By PAUL THOMAS

saves, but were able to punish Denmark on the counter-attack in the second saves, punish

half.
"The biggest thing for me is the understanding of how we can compete at this level and how we can win," O'Neill

said.
"For 40 minutes in the "For 40 minutes in the game on Friday (a 4-0 loss to Finland in Helsinki) we played in a similar way and I was pleased with that.
"The problem is when we go behind how we manage that and how you deal with that.

# **Massive**

"When you go ahead it energises you and gives you something to hang on, something to protect... We have to recognise when we play teams of a certain level this is how we're going to have to play.

"We've got four lads who are under 21 starting the game and two of the back three play at the League One level so it's a massive step up.

"They're bringing on (Yussuf) Poulsen, who plays for RB Leipzig, they're

Champions League players. so I thought they gave a magnificent account of themselves."

While his players and the Windsor Park crowd took great delight in the result, O'Neill was determined not

O'Neill was determined not to get too carried away.

But having said on Sunday that Northern Ireland's performances had been better than their results, this was another display that offered much encouragement encouragement.

encouragement.
"If we'd have played like that and lost I wouldn't have gone away totally dispirited by it," he said. "I would have looked at the game analytically, you look what why you lose and what was the difference between winning." winning.
"We have to look back at

the earlier games in the group when we had quite a lot of possession in the games and maybe that doesn't suit us. "Maybe

we play better a

counter-attacking

counter-attacking team. Those are all things we're trying to work out with this group of players."

O'Neill now has several months in which to learn the lessons of this campaign before they reconvene for two friendlies in March—with the opposition yet to be announced. The 54-year-old

will use that time to look at

will use that time to look at the campaign as a whole, including his own decisions, to see what could have been done better.

But that process will be more palatable after the year ended in a rousing atmosphere at Windsor Park, one of the best nights at the stadium since O'Neill's first spell in charge.

"It's great to see the stadium full," he said. "We want to be a team that people get behind, that they enjoy seeing.

# Campaign

"When we were at our best home form was massive to us and it's going to be massive again going forward.

"I know what it means to people here and what it means to win here. It's been aphilloging comparing for

a challenging campaign for me. I've got to look at myself. Are we doing the right things? I believe

we are.
"It might not show at this moment, but hopefully this gives us a of glimpse of what maybe lies ahead."

# REALLY HITS THE TARGET



ENGLAND boss Sarina Wiegman believes Beth Mead has **"shown** enough" to earn her recall to the squad for the Lionesses' final NationsLeaguefixtures.

It is a welcome return to the international fold for the 28-year-old Arsenal forward, who resumed club action last month after suffering an ACL injury last November and

has now earned an England call-up for the first time in over a year.
Tottenham midfielder Grace Clinton and Manchester City goalkeeper Khiara Keating retain their places in the Lionesses'

Khiara Keating retain their places in the Lionesses' 23-player squad, having received their first senior call-ups in October.

England play their final two games of the year, starting with the Netherlands at Wembley on December 1 before facing Scotland at Hampden Park four days later and Wiegman is delighted to have Mead's experience for those games. "It's really nice, she's played minutes, she's in a good place and still building too, but that was a very nice

too, but that was a very nice phone call, she was very

# By MIKE FRANCIS

happy," Wiegman told a press

happy," Wiegman told a press conference.

"We've had conversations all the time, we had conversations before September camp and during and in October too because shewas already fully training and getting some minutes but I just wanted to see a little more and that's what we've seen now.

"Her health is really good so she can just go and she's showed of course in games that she's in a good place and we want her to keep growing and improving.

"She's shown enough to me and for my technical staff to bring her in.

and for my technical staff to bring her in.
"She is a character that brings positive energy off the pitch and on the pitch and it's good to have her back. Her experience, the way she plays, she's different than other players on the wing, she brings different things so

she brings different things so that's good we have different opportunities. Off pitch gives us some extra energy."

England are currently third in Group A1 of the Nations League following a disappointing 3-2 loss to Belgium last month, their second defeat in four group matches.

Plenty is at stake in the competition as the winners of



League A will reach the

League A will reach the finals, which act as Europe's 2024 Olympic qualifiers, meaning that hopes of a qualification spot in Paris are in danger for Team GB.

With two games remaining to try and turn things around, Wiegman insists England's preparations will remain the same and has called on her side to be "more ruthless" in the final third.

"It hink the Belgium game, the difference of us to them was so big," she said.

"That last result was not a reflection of how we were in

ratifast result was not a reflection of how we were in camp. Yes we're in a situation where we absolutely need wins, we know that, we're aware of that. When we go

into a camp we want to win games. We haven't done that lately in all our games and

lately in all our games and that's what we want to do.
"Our approach will not all of a sudden change, we just review our last game, we prepare for the Netherlands first and the process we do will not be a lot different because I think we still do good things, we have to do better in moments of the game.

game.
"In the final third we In the final third we create a lot of chances but have to be more ruthless and we have to be aware of the counter-attack, be better and tighter on the ball."

# **Exciting**

Wiegman also took time to congratulate Chelsea manager Emma Hayes on her appointment as new head coach of the United States women's team, a role she will take up at the end of the season

"She's done a tremendous job, incredible results she's had over a decade," Wiegman

"I think for her it's good to move on and I congratulated her of course with the new job, it's very exciting for her. For her it's really good and overall in the bigger picture it's good for the women's game too."

# D



# DNESDAY

FOOTBALL Halloud League Barnet v
Oldham – TNT Sports 1 1930.
BASKERBALL EuroCup, London Lions v
Cedevita Günigia Ljudijana – TNT Sports 2
1915. NBA. Boston Celtics v Milwaukee
Bucks – TNT Sports 1 0030 (Thu), Phoenix
Suns v Golden State Warriors – TNT
Sports 1 0300 (Thu).

- Suns v Golden State Warriors TNT Sports 1 0300 (The Sports 1 1315 (T

- FOOTBALL: Championship, Rotherham v Leeds Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1930; Scottish Cup, Dunfermline v Raith BBC Scotland 1945;
- Dunfermine v Raith BBC Scotland 1942, Bundesiga, Cologo v Bayern Munich Sky Sports Mit 1930. Laliga, Alaves v Granada Laliga V 2008. Lique I, Paris Si Germain v Monaco TNT Sports 3 2000. MOTTOR RACINE, Formula One, Abu Dhabi Grand Prix first practice Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports F1 0910. Second practice Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports F1 1245. THE Sports 1 1900. United Might Primer Sports I 1910. United Sports Sports P 1915. Visipley Sports 2 1935. Edinburgh Venetlon Visipley Sports 2
- BBC Two Wales 1915, Yiaplay Sports 2 1935, Edihuplay Wenetton Viaplay Sports 11935. 600LF. Australian PGA Championship Sky Sports Golf 0230, Sky Sports Main Event 1000, Sky Sports Main Event 1055, Ladies European Bur. The Andalucia Casta Le European Bur. The Andalucia Casta Sky Event and Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Main 1741 1256 and 1950. MOTOR CYCLING. ModGP: Grand Prix of Valencia first practice TMT Sports 2
- Valencia first practice TNT Sports 2 0800, Second practice TNT Sports 2
- UBUU, Second practice INI Sports 2
  1215.

  GRIDIRON: NFL. New York Jets v Miami
  Dolphins Sky Sports MFL 1930, Sky
  Sports Mair Event 2200.

  BASKETBALL: NBA, Orlando Magic v
  Boston Celtics INT Sports 4 1930, New
  York Knicks v Miami Heat INT Sports 2
  0030 (Sat).

SATURDAY

\*\*POIDBALL: Premier League. Manchester
City v Liverpool — Sky Sports Main Event
and Sky Sports Premier League 1100.
Brentifior 4 Assensi—1 MT Sports 11445:
Championship. West Brown Visswich—
Sky Sports Forbial and Sky Sports Main
Event 1700. National League. Aft Fyldev
Dorking—1118 Sports 1130. Serie A.
Atlantav 1 Alguel — 1114.
Atlantav 1 Alguel — 1114.
Browt 1115.

1730. MOTOR RACING: Formula One, Abu Dhabi

- Grand Prix third practice Sky Sports F1 1015, Qualifying Sky Sports F1 1315. RUGBY UNION: Premiership, Gloucester v RUGBY UNION. Premiership. Gloucester v Leicester – TIN Sports 1 1400, United Rugby Championship, Lions v Zebre – Viaplay Sports 2 1255, Bulls v Connacht – Viaplay Sports 2 1500. Sharks v Dragons – S4C 1650, Viaplay Sports 1705, Leinster Wunster – Viaplay Sports 2 1830, Glasgow v Ulster – Viaplay Sports 1995.
- regions 1255. MOTOR CYCLING: MotoGP. The Grand Prix
- MUIUK CYCLING: Motobly, the Grand Prix of Valencia third practice and qualifying TITS Sports 2 0845, Qualifying ITV3 1330, Sprint race TNT Sports 2 1330. DARTS: Players Championship Finals ITV4 1245, ITV3 1900.
- SNOOKER: UK Championship Eurosport 1 1300 and 1845, BBC One 1315, BBC Two

# England 1630. BASKETBALL: NBA, Oklahoma City Thunder v Philadelphia 76ers — TNT Sports 1 2200.

SUNDAY

• FOOTBALL: Premier League, Tottenham v
Aston Villa — Sky Sports Premier League
1300, Sky Sports Main Event 1400, Everton
v Manchester United — Sky Sports Main 1300. Sky Sports Main Event 1400. Evertion Vanchester Dilind — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1000. Women's Super League, Manchester City Voltenham — Sky Sports Premier League 1790. einch Premiership. Aberdeen VRangers — Sky Sports Fromier League 1790. einch Premiership. Aberdeen VRangers — Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1100. Serie A. Cagliari V Monza — TNI Sports A 1130. Engoli V Sassubo — TNI Sports 3 1400. Rema v Udinese — TNI Sports 3 1400. Rema v Udinese — TNI Sports 1700. By Sports 1700. Rennes v Reims — TNI Sports 1700. Sports 1700. Rennes v Reims — TNI Sports 1700. Engoli V Sports 1700. Rennes v Reims — TNI Sports 1700. Engoli V Sports 2 200. Rennes v Reims — TNI Sports 1700. Leajue, Villarea v V Gasuna – Viaplay Sports 2 and Laliga TV 1300. Real Sociedad v Sveilla — Viaplay Sports 2 and Laliga TV 1730. Real Belie v Lae Palmas — Viaplay Sports 1 and Laliga TV 2000. Bundesliga, Heidenheim v Bellum — Sky Sports Football 1400.

- Hoffenheim v Mainz Sky Sports Fotball 1.430.

  MUTOR RACING: Formula One, The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Sky Sports F1 1255.

  RUGSY VINION-Premiership, Newcastle v Exter TNI Sports 1 1430. Women's Premiership, Newcastle v Exter TNI Sports 1 1430. Women's Premiership, Newflow Sports Sports 1 1500.

  GOLF. Australian PSA Championship Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Golf C230. DP World Tour. The Joburg Open Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Golf 2020. DP World Tour. The Joburg Open Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Golf 2000. Ladies European Tour. The Andlaucia Costa Del Sol Open De Espana Sky Sports Golf 1000.

  CRICKET. Second TDD, India v Australia TNT Sports 4 1330.

  DARTS: Players Championship Finals ITV 1265 and 1900.

  MOTOR FYCELING: ModOpe Grand Prix of Valencia TNT Sports 4 1330.

- DANIS T-Payes Chaimpusing Finals— TWA 1285 and 1900.
  MOTOR CYCLING: MotoPp Grand Prix of Valencia— INT Sports 2 1330, ITV 1400.
  SNOOKER: UK Championship—Eurosport 1245 and 1845. Bic Two England 1300, BBC One 1500.
  GRIDIRON. HT. Qame TBD Sky Sports NFL 1700. Sky Sports Main Event 1900. game TBD Sky Sports Main Event 1900. game TBD Sky Sports Main Event 300 Sky Sports MIL 2115, Los Angeles Chargers Validimore Ravens Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports MFL 0120 (Mon)



# **Shishkin off** to Ascot for comeback

# By DON FRANCOME

SHISHKIN is "almost certain" to line up in Ascot's 1965 Chase on Ascot's 1965 Chase on Saturday in preference to the Grade One Betfair Chase at Haydock. Nicky Henderson raised the possibility of Shishkin heading to Merseyside

earlier in the autumn for a mouthwatering clash with last year's winner Protektorat and the King George hero of last season, Bravemansgame.

Henderson had considered the Betfair Chase as a suitable stepping-stone towards the King George at Kempton over Christmas, but testing ground has prompted a change of

heart.

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to work out that two-miles-five out that two-miles-five around Ascot is going to suit him better than three miles in the soft at Haydock," said the Seven Barrows handler. "The ground at Ascot will be preferable and he's almost certain to go there. He's won a two-mile-five race there and

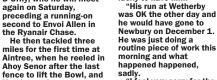
mile-five race there and we know he likes it."

Now a nine-year-old, Shishkin won the Supreme Novices' Hurdle and Arkle over two miles at successive Cheltenham Festivals.

However, he was pulled up in the Champion Chase of 2022 and after being beaten into third behind Edwardstone in last season's Tingle Creek, Henderson stepped his charge up in trip.

The move proved successful, with a successful, with a
16-length win in the Ascot
Chase in February over Pic
D'Orhy, who he will meet
again on Saturday,
preceding a running-on
second to Envoi Allen in

miles for the first time at Aintree, when he reeled in Ahoy Senor after the last fence to lift the Bowl, and Henderson hopes to see him return to the longer distance on Boxing Day. He added: "This is a



ne would have gone to Newbury on December 1. He was just doing a routine piece of work this morning and what happened happened, eadly sadly. "I feel very sorry for the

TRAINER: Henderson

The nine-year-old won three times at the highest level for Philip Hobbs. Having finished fourth

on his reappearance at Wetherby earlier this month, Thyme Hill was

being readied for the Long

Distance Hurdle at Newbury on Friday week a race in which he beat Paisley Park three years ago – but his connections are now mourning the loss

of a stable stalwart. Johnson White, who

training licence earlier this year, said: "It's very sad for the whole yard. He's been phenomenal for some

lovely owners and has taken them on a fantastic journey. We've been very lucky to have him.

joined Hobbs on the

prep race for the King

whole yard as he's been our flagbearer for a number of years now."

# ALL THE TOP TIPS FOR TODAY'S RACING



## George and we want to win it. "He didn't travel as well as he might in his races last season and I think we might put some cheek pieces on him. We've AYE Right suffered an agonising defeat on his schooled him in them and seasonal reappearance they help keep his mind but can return to winning on it." ■MULTIPLE Grade One ways at Warwick on winner Thyme Hill has died after suffering a fatal injury on the gallops.

Wednesday.

The popular 10-year-old looked certain to secure a ninth career victory at Chepstow last month when jumping the final fence in fine fashion and landing well clear of the opposition

landing well clear of the opposition.

However, a combination of idling on the run-in and then tiring in the dying stages allowed Good Boy Bobby to snatch the spoils, with Aye Right going down by a neck after being collared near the line.

Despite that Despite that late heartbreak, it was still an encouraging return for the 2021 Rehearsal Chase winner, who found life tough in top-class company last

He can secure a first success for almost two years when again facing fellow senior citizens in the John Sumner Memorial Veterans' Handicap Chase.

A welter burden of 12st 2lb is of little concern, as Aye Right has carried big weights well in some valuable handicaps during his career, while he also has several triumphs on testing ground on his CV.

Act Of Authority was

By MIKE FRANCIS

thrown in too deep when sixth in a hot Grade Two contest at Cheltenham last time out but the Denis O'Connell Memorial 'National Hunt' Novices' Hurdle looks much more calmer water.

The five-year-old son of Authorized had previously hacked up by 14 lengths at Bangor on his debut over timber and remains a promising sort.

Push The Button has a similar profile in the Olly Murphy Racing Novices' Hurdle, recovering from a final-flight blunder to oblige at Worcester before finishing a creditable fourth behind three Irish raiders at Cheltenham.

# **Franked**

Idy Wood looks to have been found a nice opportunity to continue his development in the British Stallion Studs EBF 'National Hunt' Novices' Hurdle at Hexham.

The five-year-old impressed when landing a Newbury bumper and readily accounted for some fair rivals on his debut over hurdles at Fontwell.

Jamie Snowden's charge then kept on well when a fine third behind Lookaway at Cheltenham, form which was franked by the victor in Sunday's Greatwood Hurdle.

There will be plenty of



interest in Lucinda Russell's newcomer Inox Allen in the Simon Waugh Racing's @ Northumberlandracingclub

Maiden Hurdle.

He stayed on strongly to score in his sole point-to-point in Ireland and is a half-brother to Kempton winner Jupiter Allen.

David Pipe's runners have been in decent form this season and he has several fancied entries at Ffos Las.

Itseemslikeit was an encouraging fourth of 16 behind Captain Bellamy in a hot Chepstow bumper and now makes his debut over timber in the Sinclair Group

Maiden Hurdle. Kepagge Maiden Hurdle. Kepagge picked up a couple of nice victories over hurdles here in the spring and returns to action in the Owens Group Handicap Chase on a reasonable mark for the switch to fences after a wind on

op.
Phantomofthepoints, who races in the Honeysuckle colours of Kenny Alexander, showed promise when third of 15 in a Ballinrobe bumper behind Willie Mullins hotpot Dr Eggman and appeals in the CK Foodstores National Hunt Flat Race.

the CK Foodstores National Hunt Flat Race.

SELECTIONS

DUNDALK: 1.45 Tiger King, 2.20 Irish Rumour, 2.55 Chica Power, 3.30 Dream Ticket, 4.05 Cross Border, 4.40 Storm Eric, 5.15 Well Suited, 5.45 Old Peculier.

FFOS LAS: 12.35 Lump Sum, 1.05 Percy Veering, 1.40 Itseemslikeit, 2.15 Kepagge, 2.50 Balkardy, 3.25 Boston Joe, 4.00 Phantomofthepoints.

HEXHAM: 12.45 Idy Wood, 1.20 Our Laura B, 1.55 Inox Allen, 2.30 Kingston Bridge, 3.05 Lacila Blue, 3.40 Wendigo, WARWICK: 12.25 Pembroke, 12.55 Sacchoandvanzetti, 1.30 ACT OF AUTHORITY (NAP), 2.05 Push The Button, 2.40 Moviddy, 3.15 Aye Right, 3.50 Rula Bula, WOLVERHAMPTON: 4.30 Moon Flight, 6.00 Jumira Bridge, 6.30 Clarendon House, 7.30 Moon Flight, 6.00 Jumira Bridge, 6.30 Clarendon House, 7.00 McLean House, 7.30 Dance Time, 8.00 Red Hat Eagle, 8.30 Green Power.



once again and that's what we needed to really

1. Pedro Neto has the most assists in the Premier League this season. How many has he got?
2. Which two countries have contested the last two Women's Rugby World Cup finals? 3. Which golfer won the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai this weekend?
4. Name the US city which is home to the following professional teams: Eagles, 76ers, Flyers, Union.

5. Who did Iga Swiatek beat in the final of the WTA Finals in Cancun earlier this month?
6. How many Men's
Cricket World Cup titles have Australia won?
7. Lauren Smith manages which Women's Super League team? 8. Who will Anthony Joshua fight in Saudi Arabia next month?

9. After Phil Taylor, who has won the most PDC **World Darts** Championship titles?
10. Which race
concludes the 2023 Formula One season?

11. Phil Taylor, who has announced he will retire from darts at the end of next year, has won how many World Championships? 12. The Nuggets Broncos and Avalanche are sports teams based in which US city? 13. Which New Zealand player was named World Rugby men's 15s player of the year for 2023? 14. Lewis Hamilton's only pole position of the 2023 Formula One season so far came at which Grand Prix? 15. England head coach Sarina Wiegman was born in which Dutch city? 16. Which batter scored the most runs at the 2023 men's Cricket World Cup? 17. In which year was the World Snooker Championship first held at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield?

18. Manchester City's
Jack Grealish, then an Aston Villa player, spent the 2013-14 season on loan in

ANSWERS: 1. 1. Seven; 2. 2. Seven; 2. England and Waw Zealand; 2. 4 licotal Hoggard; 4. 5. 4 licotal Hoggard; 6. 5/5; 7. Bristol City, 8. 60 for wealth; 7. 10 for wear; 10. 10

League One at which club? 19. In which sport do

previously staged the ummer Olympic

- 1922: St Albans' Billy Minter scored seven goals in an FA Cup tie against Dulwich, but ended up on the losing side as the match finished 8-7.
- 1986: Mike Tyson became the youngest world heavyweight boxing champion when he heat Trevor Berbick at the age of 20 years and six months.
- 1990: 250-1 shot Equinoctial won at Kelso to confound the bookies and go into the record books as the longest-priced horse ever to win a
- race in Britain. 2000: Leeds and West Ham agreed an £18million fee to take Rio Ferdinand to Elland Road, making him the most expensive defender in
- the world at the time. 2003: Jonny Wilkinson's extratime drop goal gave England a dramatic 20-17 win over Australia in the Rugby World Cup
- 2007: Steve McClaren was sacked as England manager after the team failed to qualify for Euro 2008.
- 2008. New Zealand won the Rugby League World Cup final 34-20 against Australia in Brisbane.
- 2010: The Scottish Football Association drew up contingency plans to deal with a proposed strike by eferees, including sourcing match officials in other countries". The strike went ahead, with officials brought in from Israel, Malta and Luxembourg.
- 2011: South African Mickey Arthur was appointed as the new Australia cricket coach.
- 2013: England failed to cope with the pace of Mitchell Johnson as they lost six wickets for nine runs in a hapless collapse which turned the first Ashes Test on its head at the Gabba.
- 2015: Rory McIlroy took victory in the DP World Tour Championship to claim a third Race to Dubai title in four
- 2017: Everton striker Oumar Niasse became the first Premier League player to be hit with a retrospective suspension for diving after being handed a two-match ban by the Football Association.
- 2020: Russia's Daniil Medvedev won the Nitto ATP Finals title, beating Austria's Dominic Thiem 4-6 7-6 (2) 6-4 in the final in London.
- 2021: Gareth Southgate signed a new contract as England manager running until December 2024

# MORE FALLOUT FROM THE

**GARETH Southgate has been** pleased by England's progress during an unbeaten 2023 but knows there is work to do as the team tries to win the **European Championship.** 

The Euro 2020 runners-up are among the favourites to win in Germany next summer but seemed to lose their edge after sealing qualification with two

matches to spare.
Friday's uninspiring 2-0 Wembley win against minnows Malta was followed three days later by an underwhelming 1-1 draw in North Macedonia as the curtain came down on a nudefeated year.

on an undefeated year.

November's double-header will
not live long in the memory but
Southgate has "learned a lot" from
the fixtures, with attention now

# By PAUL THOMAS

intensifying on his fourth – and possibly final – major tournament in the dugout.

We wanted to look at a few we wanted to look at a lew different things as well, so we've managed to learn from the game as well as the result," the boss said.

well as the result," the boss said.
"I have to be pleased with the progress of the team. You know, if you'd said at the start of the campaign that we would be eight wins, two draws at the end of the year, it's a pretty good record given the fixtures that we've had.

"(North Macedonia) was always a

(North Macedonia) was always a game where we knew if you'd needed to come here for that point to qualify would be a very difficult place to come. They took the draw from Italy as well, so credit to North Macedonia

for that.
"We can now start to look forward.

We've got these two exciting games in March to look forward to and prepare for.
"So, yeah, I think we've done a lot of things well, but there's always room for improvement."
March's home friendlies against Brazil and Belgium will provide much-needed challenges in the final meet-up before Southgate selects his 23-man squad for Germany.

# Tough

Two further preparation games will follow before the Euros get under way, with the December 2 draw in Hamburg providing clarity on next summer's opposition, base camp and potential route to the final. England's draw against Macedonia rubber-stamped their place among the top seeds for the Euro 2024 draw and Southgate said: "In the calendar year we're eight wins and two draws

year we're eight wins and two draws from a particularly tough qualifying

group and certainly a friendly in Scotland that was always going to be challenging.
"Of course, you'd like 10 wins out

"Of course, you'd like 10 wins out of 10 but not many teams do that.
"I'm really pleased with what the players have given – not just the players that are here tonight, but the players that have represented us through this year because they've been excellent."

Harw Kane has uncurprisingly.

Harry Kane has, unsurprisingly, been among the standout performers this year but questions about the Bayern Munich sharpshooter's

Bayern Munich sharpshooter's back-up remain.
Callum Wilson, Ivan Toney, Eddie Nketiah and Dominic Calvert-Lewin have all been selected in recent times, but Ollie Watkins is the current frontrunner for the job.
The Aston Villa striker had the chance to underline that status against Macedonia but was replaced by Kane just 58 minutes into a



frustrating night in Skopje, where the skipper made an immediate impact as he forced Jani Atanasov into an own goal equaliser. "Look, it was a difficult game," Southerts and whom parked

"Look, it was a difficult game,"
Southgate said when asked about Watkins."

Very little space, back five, so we're dealing with three centrebacks, really, and we weren't quite able to create the clear chance for him.

"But he did fine. It's not easy when you're coming in in those circumstances but that's international football.

"Of course, he's had games where there's been more opportunities to score and he's done that well with us.

"This) was a different sort of

"(This) was a different sort of test and, yeah, as a team, it was hard to find the spaces and find the gaps even though moments

Arnold) did.

"It was so crowded around the edge of that box to find those clear chances for our forwards."

Rico Lewis is one player who did his chance of making the final squad no harm despite giving away a harsh penalty.

Southgate said: "He was excellent

Southgate said: "He was excellent.
"His performance and then his reaction to what I know will have been a disappointment for him, but we're not looking at him for being at fault in any way.
"His composure with the ball was outstanding and he should be really proud because we are very very pleased with what he

very, very pleased with what he

did.

"We thought Rico throughout the whole game was excellent. Great composure, resilience."



STRANGE CALLS: Kane speaks to the referee



ENGLAND have had their ups and relative downs as Gareth Southgate's men qualified for next summer's Euros and went through 2023 unbeaten.

# **OPENING WIN IN ITALY**

Southgate's men put their 2022 World Cup frustration behind them by kicking off European qualification with victory at reigning champions

Italy in March. Harry Kane became England's all-time record goalscorer by striking goalscorer by striking home a penalty after Declan Rice opened the scoring in Naples, before Mateo Retegui pulled one

Luke Shaw's sending-off for two bookings in quick succession made for a nervy final 10 minutes but England held out for a 2-1 win – their first away to Italy since 1961.

# INSPIRED BUKAYO SAKA MARMALISES MACEDONIA

Bukayo Saka scored a jaw-dropping first career hat-trick in June as rampant England roared to a 7-0 victory against North Macedonia in a surprise end to the 2022-23 campaign. Kane struck twice in an

Old Trafford annihilation that also saw Marcus Rashford and Kalvin Phillips get in on the act. but ever-improving talent Saka was the star of the show.

# SUCCESS IN SCOTLAND

Phil Foden, Jude Bellingham and Kane fired England to a 3-1 victory as Scotland were given the runaround by the Auld Enemy at Hampden Park in Sentember.

Southgate was delighted with his players' commitment. players' commitment, togetherness and mentality in the so-called friendly as they followed up a 1-1 draw against Ukraine in Poland by beating Steve Clarke's side on a night when Harry Maguire recovered from an own goal and an evening of abuse from the home crowd.

# MEEK MALTA WIN

England were poor in patches in away to Ukraine and struggled to break down Macedonia as their final group game also ended 1-1, but it was Friday's win against Malta that most disappointed.

An expectant Wembley crowd resorted to paper planes and Mexican waves to entertain themselves in a 2-0 victory that lacked excitement.
Southgate admitted

afterwards that he suspected players had subconsciously let their foot off the gas against the side 171st in the world.

# BOO BOYS

During his seven years in charge, Southgate can be rightly proud of the way the fan-base and squad have reconnected. A few supporters were

A few supporters were enard booing Southgate and Jordan Henderson after Monday's draw in Skopje, with the latter also jeered by England fans in both Wembley appearances since his controversial summer switch to Sould Arabia switch to Saudi Arabia.

Travelling fans at Hampden threw their support behind Maguire, who has been booed by pockets of his own fanbase in previous years, but the Manchester United defender was hounded by Scotland fans – treatment labelled by - treatment labelled by Southgate as "ridiculous", "a joke" and "beyond anything I've ever seen". LEFT-BACK LIMITATIONS

England are blessed with options at right-back but they lack alternatives on the other side. Luke Shaw is first choice but Shaw is first choice but has only started twice since being sent off against Italy. Injury has kept the Manchester United left-back out of the last three

squads, with an issue keeping Ben Chilwell out of the previous two camps.

The Chelsea man played in both matches against Ukraine but rightback Kieran Trippier has started as many matches on the left this year. Levi Colwill, Fikayo

Tomori and Rico Lewis have also begun matches there, but Southgate will be praying Shaw and Chilwell get back fit and firing.







